

## **WASTEWATER PROGRAM**

### **Revision & Update of Chapter 246-272A WAC**

May 11, 2005

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### **On-site Sewage Systems**

#### **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of this presentation is to update the State Board of Health on the status of proposed revisions to the On-site Sewage System rules including discussion of recent related legislative activities

#### **Issues**

**Update/Discussion on legislative action** – The legislature approved \$1.3 million for local planning and data system enhancements and increased technical assistance from Department of Health (DOH). This creates the opportunity for the Board to determine how to proceed with the rules and implementation, particularly related to the local planning portions of the proposed rule.

**DOH recommendation based on outcome of legislation** – The legislature adopted a budget for funding for planning in marine counties. Therefore, we recommend focusing the more comprehensive planning requirements and the financial resources in the Puget Sound counties. As additional funding becomes available, we would recommend expanding more comprehensive planning to other select counties.

#### **DOH recommendations based on outcome of March public hearing –**

- **Minimum Lot Size** – The Building Industry Association of Washington and several county commissioners expressed concern about the proposal to increase the minimum lot size and the possible increased costs to development. We believe the impact of this proposal will be small because local land use requirements require larger lot sizes than the proposal. If the impact will be small, the resulting public health protection or improvement will also be small. We seek direction from the Board on this issue.
- **Drainfield Sizing** – The proposed amended language on drainfield sizing addresses the concerns expressed by the people testifying from Pacific County and others. We recommend adoption of the amended language.
- **Record Transfer** – We received numerous comments that the proposed process for record transfer was confusing and was already covered by the state disclosure requirements. We recommend adoption of the amended language and focusing on homeowner education on the value of retaining maintenance records.

#### **Next Steps**

- Prepare and file a supplemental CR-102 proposal based on direction from the Board – May 18, 2005
- Distribute draft for public comment
- Public Hearing at July board meeting

#### **Interim Activities**

- Develop contracts with Puget Sound counties to do the comprehensive planning and to develop electronic data systems
- Develop a template for the comprehensive planning requirements and assist Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) in plan development
- Work with LHJs and industry to develop a common inspection form
- Expand and enhance homeowner education
- Identify funding options for homeowners for system repairs

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